United Nations A/55/184

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 21 of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

Report of the Secretary-General**

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1	2
II.	Implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/9	2–75	2
	A. Joint activities	2–5	2
	B. Consultations and exchange of information	6–9	2
	C. Information received from the United Nations system	10–75	3
	1. United Nations Secretariat	11–24	3
	2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	25–39	5
	3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	40–41	6
	4. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	42–46	7
	5. United Nations International Drug Control Programme	47–50	8
	6. International Labour Organization	51-60	8
	7. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	61–66	9
	8. International Civil Aviation Organization	67	10
	9. World Bank	68–69	10
	10. International Maritime Organization	70–73	10
	11. United Nations Industrial Development Organization	74–75	11

* A/55/150.

** The present report was delayed by late contributions from some agencies and the adaptation of lengthy submissions.

00-55787 (E) 260900

I. Introduction

1. The present report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 53/9 of 22 October 1998 and outlines the measures taken to implement the resolution.

II. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/9

A. Joint activities

2. The joint United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) continued to be a primary focus of cooperation between the two Organizations until June 1999, when OAS reduced its presence, owing to financial constraints. On 4 June, Secretary-General César Gaviria informed me that a shortfall in donor contributions necessitated an imminent reduction in the MICIVIH OAS component. On that occasion Secretary-General Gaviria emphasized that MICIVIH was an "exemplary showcase of close collaboration between our organizations" and had made "significant contributions to the efforts of the Government of Haiti to strengthen democratic institutions and protect the human rights of its citizens".

3. The mandates of both MICIVIH and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) expired on 15 March 2000 and a new mission, the United Nations Civilian Support Mission for Haiti (MICAH), began its one-year mandate on 16 March. The work of MICAH in the areas of human rights and rule of law form a continuum with that conducted by MICIVIH since 1993.

4. For the first six months of 2000, elections in Haiti were the primary focus of attention. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided technical advice and assistance to the election commission and the OAS-sponsored Election Observation Mission followed all relevant aspects of the electoral process. OAS and MICAH consulted regularly throughout the campaign and election periods and their aftermath. Cooperation and consultation between the two organizations was critical to ensuring a unified international approach throughout the process. On 14 June and 10 July, I issued statements calling on Haitian authorities to address the electoral irregularities detected by the OAS Electoral Observation Mission.

5. The United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) coordinated closely with Guatemalan and international organizations observing Guatemala's general elections in late 1999. In order to cover as many polling places as possible, MINUGUA staff exchanged information on the deployment of observers with OAS and the European Union. This exchange also extended to security arrangements and the sharing of fact-finding. OAS also fielded observers during the May 1999 referendum on constitutional reforms designed to advance implementation of the peace accords.

B. Consultations and exchange of information

6. In December 1998, a meeting was held in New York in follow-up to the third high-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations, which took place in July of that year. Emerging from the follow-up session was a series of modalities of conflict prevention to be implemented by OAS and the United Nations, as well as other regional groupings. Collaboration between the two organizations continues to be guided by these modalities.

7. The Department of Political Affairs is the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. In that capacity, the Department coordinates the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/9 of 29 October 1998, including the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

8. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/5 of 21 October 1994, the Department contacted the heads of all components of the United Nations system and requested them to identify, in their respective offices, officers responsible for OAS affairs to be OAS focal points in various areas of work. Subsequently, the Department established and continues to maintain a list of United National focal points, which was communicated to OAS, in order to facilitate more pragmatic and cost-effective cooperation between the two organizations.

9. The United Nations was represented at the twenty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly of OAS, held in Guatemala City from 6 to 8 June 1999, and at its thirtieth regular session, which was held in Windsor, Canada from 4 to 6 June 2000. At each meeting, the OAS membership adopted a resolution requesting the OAS Secretary-General to continue to strengthen activities of cooperation between the two organizations.

C. Information received from the United Nations system

10. In response to a request by the Department of Political Affairs, the heads of agencies, programmes, departments and offices of the United Nations system supplied information on their relevant activities from September 1998 until 15 June 2000. Information received as of 7 July 2000 is summarized below.

1. United Nations Secretariat

Department for Disarmament Affairs

11. Most recently, the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Department of Disarmament Affairs, organized two workshops in cooperation with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to promote the adoption of the Commission's 1997 "Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition". The workshops were held on 19 May and 23 and 24 May 2000, respectively, in Lima and Fort-de-France, Martinique, French West Indies. The workshops brought together representatives from foreign ministries, police and customs institutions of OAS member States, CICAD, the regional INTERPOL office and other interested countries from outside the region. They provided opportunities to examine the importance of the CICAD firearms Model Regulations in the context of the 1997 Hemispheric Convention on Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives; allowed OAS and the Regional Centre to demonstrate how the new regulations would operate in practice; and provided for discussion of the procedures and modalities of the Regulations.

12. In November 1999, pursuant to the 1997 recommendation of the CICAD Expert Group on the Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, consultations were held in Lima, between the Regional Centre and CICAD on the recommendation of the CICAD Expert Group to establish a Group of Experts with specific knowledge of explosives to review and examine in depth that subject and explosive accessories with a view to developing model regulations for their control. The consultations also explored the current status of the debate on explosives at the regional and global levels.

13. The Lima Regional Centre participated in several OAS events, including the March 2000 meeting on the Proliferation of and Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, organized by the Committee on Hemispheric Security, and the first regular meeting of the Consultative Committee to the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials.

14. The Department was also represented at a number of OAS meetings, including the OAS Seminar on Conflict Resolution and the Contribution of Confidence and Security-Building Measures to Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post Conflict Reconstruction held in Washington, D.C. in April 2000. In December 1998, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs made a presentation on small arms and the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms to the Permanent Council of the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

15. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs cooperates closely with OAS on disaster management issues. In November 1999, an Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction was established under OAS chairmanship. The Committee established a working group on response and preparedness in cases of natural disasters under the chairmanship of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is an active participant in that Working Group.

16. The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has posted a regional officer in Costa Rica to promote disaster-reduction strategies within Latin America. OAS, represented by PAHO, also participates in the

Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, which serves as the focal point within the United Nations system for the coordination of strategies and programmes for natural disaster reduction.

Department of Public Information

17. A wide range of issues and events concerning cooperation between the United Nations and OAS was covered by the multimedia services of the Department of Public Information, particularly through press releases and publications, daily radio news bulletins and weekly current affairs magazines.

18. Radio news highlights included: a contribution of the joint United Nations-OAS International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) to promote human rights in the country; Ambassador Granderson's departure from Haiti after eight years of directing MICIVIH; monitoring the Haitian elections in May 2000; the first solar village in Latin America; foreign investment in Latin America; a project to eliminate measles from the Americas; a study about socio-economic inequity in Latin America; efforts to eliminate cocaine cultivation in Bolivia and Peru and an International Labour Organization report on unemployment in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to radio news, a special two-part 5-minute Caribbean feature programme entitled "Defending Human Rights in Haiti: the MICIVIH Story" was produced in English for regional dissemination. The OAS office in Washington, D.C., a regular recipient of UN Radio programmes, continued to broadcast all programmes produced in Spanish by UN Radio in New York.

19. The Department produced 21 short programmes, pertinent to the OAS region, in its UN in Action/CNN TV series. Themes of the series included: women, health, drug abuse/illicit trafficking, children, human rights, peace and security, environment, sustainable development and disaster relief.

20. The Department was invited by the United Nations Association of Cuba to participate in an international seminar entitled "The New Millennium: The United Nations, Peace and International Security", which will take place within the framework of the International Year of a Culture of Peace, in Havana, from 26 to 29 September 2000.

21. Department briefings for non-governmental organizations were organized with representatives of OAS countries on the following themes: "Global Public Goods: International Cooperation in the 21st Century", with Samuel Insanally, Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations (27 January 2000); "Financing for Development", with Mauricio Escanero, Minister, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations (20 January 2000); and "Social Summit + 5", with Cristian Maquieira of the Permanent Mission of Chile (24 February 2000).

22. The United Nations information centre in Buenos Aires and OAS organized a human rights panel discussion on 9 December 1999 to launch "Los Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres — Paso a Paso", a book on the rights of women published by OAS, and an exhibition of paintings on 1 July 1999. The information centre in Panama and the School of Business of the University of Panama organized a conference on 19 November 1999 on the work of the United Nations at which an OAS representative was a keynote speaker and panellist.

23. The Department has intensified its efforts to collect documents and publications issued by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations information centres and UNDP field offices of the region. The collection is indexed in the UNBIS/Horizon documentation database. In 1999, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library conducted a workshop in Santiago for United Nations depository librarians in the region. As part of the Department's efforts to enhance the availability of, and access to, electronic sources of information, the Library is continuing its work on a Spanish language United Nations web site.

24. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* continued its regular coverage of developments regarding cooperation between the United Nations and OAS, inter alia, by including the full texts of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject. Articles published in the *UN Chronicle* included an interview with Ambassador Roberta Lajous of Mexico on the fight against illegal drugs (vol. XXXV, No. 2, 1998); a special section on the special session of the General Assembly on small island developing States; an article by the President of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, on population policies (vol. XXXVI, No. 3, 1999); and "Creating a New Global Architecture: the United Nations and Cooperative Multilateralism", by Francisco Rojas Aravena, Director, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, Chile (vol. XXXVII, No. 1, 2000).

2. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

25. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/9 on cooperation between the United Nations and OAS, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has maintained its collaboration with OAS. The level and intensity of working relations and contacts have been strengthened in some areas, such as regional integration and women and development, and have decreased in others, in response to the evolving needs of countries in the region and institutional changes.

26. ECLAC and OAS increased their collaboration on hemispheric integration significantly during the last biennium. Both organizations continue to work with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in a Tripartite Committee OAS-IDB-ECLAC to assist Governments in implementing their commitments to the creation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), through the provision of technical assistance to the different instances of FTAA (Trade Negotiations Committee, negotiating groups, committees and consultative groups) and supporting the Administrative Secretariat.

27. Within the framework of the OAS-IDB-ECLAC Tripartite Committee, ECLAC has supported the Negotiating Groups on Investment, Services and Competition policy, the Consultative Group on Smaller Economies, the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society, and the Joint Government-Private Sector Committee on Electronic Commerce. ECLAC is also working with the Trade Negotiations Committee, as well as, naturally, the rotating Chair of the FTAA process and the Administrative Secretariat.

28. In carrying out activities in support of these groups and other intergovernmental instances of the FTAA process, ECLAC and OAS have often collaborated. The "Tabulation of the survey on Trade Facilitation", jointly prepared by both organizations, was presented at the Second FTAA Vice-minister meeting in April 1999. At the request of the Negotiating Group on Competition policy, ECLAC and OAS prepared a paper entitled "The CARICOM approach to competition policy in the FTAA process" (February 1999) and studies on "Competition policies in small open economies: issues and options for the FTAA negotiations" (July 1999), "Regulatory reforms from the perspective of Trade and Competition Policies" (April 2000), and "Regional integration processes and implementation of antidumping measures". These will be presented in September 2000.

29. At the request of the Joint Government-Private Sector Committee on Electronic Commerce, ECLAC and OAS prepared "briefing notes" on the profile of users of electronic commerce and the facilitation of e-commerce and on building confidence in e-commerce (June, August 1999).

30. At the request of the Consultative Group on Smaller Economies, ECLAC, OAS and IDB prepared a briefing note in June 2000 on the technical assistance required by smaller economies to allow them to have a more effective participation in the design, implementation and benefits derived from FTAA.

31. In the field of statistics, the traditional cooperation of ECLAC and OAS has given way to a new collaboration aimed at making more efficient use of the resource specialization and installed capacity of each organization. This has affected the institutional structure of both organizations.

32. Based on the 1993 OAS/ECLAC Agreement on Cooperation in Statistical Matters, the two organizations had collaborated in organizing the Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting on Statistical Matters. However, in its resolution No. 34 of 8 October 1998, the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) of OAS decided to put an end to the existence, within the organization, of the Inter-American Statistical Conference, whose Permanent Executive Committee was the ECLAC counterpart in the aforementioned agreement. At the same time, OAS asked its member countries to bring the coordination of statistical matters into a single entity within the framework of ECLAC, for which CEPCIDI entrusted the representatives of the statistical offices of Canada, Mexico, Peru and the ECLAC secretariat with the task of preparing a proposal on the organization and operation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

33. The proposal prepared by Canada, Mexico, Peru and ECLAC, improved and approved by consensus at the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas (Santiago, March 1999), was submitted to ECLAC at its twenty-eighth session, held in Mexico City in April 2000, which approved the establishment of the

Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission. The objectives of the Statistical Conference are: to promote the development and improvement of national statistics and their international comparability, bearing in mind the recommendations made by the United Nations Statistical Commission, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations; to further international, regional, and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies; and to prepare a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities designed to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources.

34. With regard to women and development, ECLAC serves as the secretariat of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and has strengthened its contacts with the OAS Inter-American Conference on Women. This has been done within the framework of the follow-up work on the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, and on the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing), activities which largely coincide with those described in Initiative 22 of the Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas, for the development of which the heads of State also requested support from ECLAC. Collaboration has increased, particularly in the use of common gender indicators, the institutional strengthening of national mechanisms for the advancement of women, and the promotion of the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

35. With regard to development of gender indicators, ECLAC presented a document entitled "Gender indicators for the follow-up and evaluation of the Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, and the Beijing Platform for Action" at the second regular session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, held in Washington, D.C. in July 1999. In April 2000, an ECLAC proposal for gender indicators was adopted by the OAS Meeting of Ministers or of the Highest-level Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States.

36. The proposed indicators will give countries a single methodological instrument with which to monitor and assess matters relating to the international commitments undertaken by the Governments of the region. Among those proposed are indicators related to education, democracy and human rights, labour issues, economic integration and free trade, science and technology, the elimination of poverty and discrimination, stimulation of microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises, indigenous populations and hunger and malnutrition.

37. In order to strengthen national mechanisms and promote the ratification of the Convention, the April 2000 meeting of OAS Ministers or of the Highest-level Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States adopted resolutions on both issues.

38. In its work with the Caribbean subregion, ECLAC carried out two projects funded by OAS, namely, (a) Small and medium food enterprises in the Caribbean, aimed at facilitating the transfer and development of technologies for industrial food processing and preservation and (b) Improvement of teaching of science and mathematics at the primary level.

39. In addition to the above activities, there is a growing participation of OAS officials in forums organized by ECLAC and vice versa, and general exchange of information. ECLAC participated at the highest level in the last two General Assemblies of OAS; the OAS, in turn, was represented at the twenty-eighth session of ECLAC and senior officials of both organizations frequently meet at third-party events, such as the Summits of Heads of State of the Americas, the Rio Group and the Ibero-American Summit. Such occasions provide opportunities for ongoing, intense and useful networking on issues relevant to the economic and social development of the region.

3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

40. The secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) collaborates with OAS in implementing the UNCTAD computerized customs management system (ASYCUDA) in OAS member States. The system is part of UNCTAD's technical assistance activities in trade and transport efficiency and deals specifically with customs modernization and reform, handles manifests and customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit

and suspense procedures, and generates timely and reliable trade data for analytical and statistical purposes. It has now been installed in over 80 countries (31 of the 48 least developed countries; 17 of the 31 landlocked developed countries and 21 of the 44 small island developing States).

41. UNCTAD also collaborates with OAS in identifying and analysing the development implications of issues related to a possible multilateral framework on investment. The primary objective of such a framework would be to assist developing countries and economies in transition in participating as effectively as possible in international discussions on investment rule-making.

4. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

42. Since 1985, the General Assembly of OAS has adopted resolutions on refugees and other populations of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Resolution 1693 (XXIX-0/99), adopted by the OAS General Assembly in Guatemala in June 1999, echoed the UNHCR accession campaign by promoting among member States, adherence to the international instruments on refugees and stateless persons. At the 2000 OAS General Assembly, the resolution on refugees called upon States parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or 1967 Protocol to enact national legislation establishing procedures to determine refugee status and to promote accession to the international instruments on statelessness.

43. UNHCR has increased its cooperation on refugee protection with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In March 2000, OAS issued the "Report on the Situation of Human Rights of Asylum Seekers within the Canadian Refugee Determination System". This Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report was based on an on-site visit of the members of the Commission to Canada in October 1997. UNHCR was represented at the presentation of the report in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, Canada.

44. In November 1999, UNHCR participated in commemorative activities for the thirtieth anniversary of the American Human Rights Convention of 1969 and the twentieth anniversary of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. A high-level cycle of conferences took place in San José where the UNHCR Deputy Regional Representative of Mexico and Head of the Costa Rica Liaison Office delivered two lectures on refugee matters. A human rights workshop was also organized in San José, to enhance the knowledge of UNHCR staff on the protection of human rights within the Inter-American system. The long-term goal is to maximize the use of the human rights mechanisms of the Inter-American system for the protection of refugees and to collaborate on policy and doctrine development, research, training, law promotion and dissemination.

45. One limitation to the effective promotion of, and training in, refugee law in Latin America is the lack of sufficient literature on refugees in Spanish and Portuguese. In order to address this gap, the Inter-American Court and UNHCR recently signed a cooperation agreement whereby the Court's documentation centre will promote research on refugee protection.

46. As with OAS, UNHCR entered into a cooperation agreement with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in 1998. Under that agreement, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and UNHCR will jointly produce and publish literature on asylum. The first volume of that series, "The protection of refugees within the new Central American context", is now available; a second publication will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of UNHCR and the twentieth anniversary of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The volume will address current human rights and refugee situations in the region, with the participation of important academicians. It was also agreed to revise the content and methodology of the Nansen "catedra", which is part of the interdisciplinary course on human rights organized each year by the Institute. Cooperation between the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and UNHCR has also led to the organization of the yearly "Encounter on Human Mobility" which gathers participants from North and Central America to discuss current migration and refugee trends in their respective countries. As a result of those meetings, a joint memorial book, entitled "Central American Encounter on Human Mobility", has been published.

5. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

47. During the 1999-2000 period under review, the OAS Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) continued to work jointly on a variety of drug control initiatives. The completion in 1999 by OAS-CICAD of a Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism to evaluate drug control efforts, results and needs in OAS member States as of the year 2000 proved to be the single most important multilateral drug control development in the region over the past years.

48. In that connection, UNDCP was invited to participate as an observer in the development of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism from March 1998 to October 1999. In the future, UNDCP will be a principal partner of OAS-CICAD for implementation of the Mechanism, since virtually all of the Programme's operational activities in the region are directly or indirectly aimed at strengthening national capacities to plan, implement, monitor and report on drug control activities. Consultations are also under way in order to streamline member States' reporting requirements to both organizations, whenever feasible. This is of importance not only to the OAS-CICAD's Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism process, but also to UNDCP, as it follows up on the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

49. At the operational level, OAS-CICAD and UNDCP continued jointly to fund and execute a US$ 1 million project to consolidate the Regional Centre for Legal Development and Cooperation in Central America. Further, both organizations collaborated in carrying out several training programmes in the field of chemical precursor control in the Caribbean and in planning new regional programmes in the field of demand reduction.

50. OAS-CICAD and UNDCP consult regularly on planning, joint policy provision and monitoring of the nature, scope and trends of drug control in the Americas. The organizations also exchange project-related information on their activities.

6. International Labour Organization

51. At the invitation of the Secretary-General of OAS, the Regional Director of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the Americas participated in the eleventh Inter-American Conference of Labour Ministers, held in Viña del Mar, Chile, in October 1998. On that occasion, the Director briefed participants on the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work" adopted by the International Conference of Labour in June 1998.

52. The agenda for the Chile meeting included (a) Economic globalization and its social dimensions and (b) modernization of the State and labour management, both issues of primary concern for ILO. In view of this, ILO helped to prepare the documentation presented at the Viña del Mar meeting. Emerging from the Conference was the Declaration of Viña del Mar, by which the signatories agreed on a plan of action to be carried out by their respective ministries. Two working groups were created to provide the ministries with information to facilitate planning of relevant activities. ILO was requested to provide support and technical assistance to the working groups in their efforts to implement the plan of action.

53. Working Group 1 was devoted to economic globalization and its social dimensions and examined four topics, namely, (a) the social dimensions of the integration processes; (b) transformation of the structures and functioning of labour markets; (c) professional training; and (d) social security.

54. In June 1999, the Coordinator of Working Group I invited all 19 participating countries and ILO to a technical meeting to analyse and finalize the document to be presented to the Conference. At the request of the participants, ILO conducted analyses of the labour instruments generated by OAS, including the language related to labour included in the integration agreements in Central America, the Andean countries and North America, as well as in accords related to the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). A similar analysis was conducted of the labour rules and laws within the Free Trade Treaty of G-3, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (ALCA) and those in the bilateral treaty between Canada and Chile. The resulting document, entitled "The labour by-laws in the integration agreements of the Americas", was presented at the second technical meeting of Working Group I in December 1999, and again on 24 and 25 February 2000, when the group gathered to follow up on the conclusions. The document serves as a basis for

the international labour regimens in which the countries of the Americas participate.

55. In contribution to the second topic on transformation of the structures and functioning of labour markets, ILO conducted a comparative analysis of the ways in which reform has been carried out around the region. The resulting study, "Labour reform in Latin America: a comparative analysis", was presented at the second technical meeting in December 1999 and at the follow-up session in February 2000.

56. Building on the achievements of the Inter-American Center for Research and Documentation on Professional Capacity-Building of ILO, technical and financial assistance was provided for the preparation of a report on developments in the area of professional training in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was presented during the second technical meeting on this subject in December 1999, organized by Working Group I.

57. Working Group II on "Modernisation of the State and labour management", covered (a) functions and duties of labour ministries; and (b) review of national labour and social security laws.

58. Under the project "Modernisation of the Labour Administration in Central America", ILO has provided technical support to the following projects:

(a) A seminar on policies designed to provide incentives and to evaluate the individual and collective performance of public officials, held in the Dominican Republic on 24 and 25 February 2000;

(b) Computerization of the Labour Union Registry and related services in the Dominican Republic;

(c) Modernization of systems of labour mediation.

59. ILO prepared a report entitled "Equality in Gender and Work: Recent Policies and Programmes of ILO in Latin America and the Caribbean" for submission to the OAS Inter-American Commission of Women, meeting in November 1998.

60. Discussions are being held between ILO Maritime Service in Geneva and the Director of the Inter-American Commission for Ports of the OAS, in order to develop joint activities, particularly concerning implementation of the ILO Program of Port Development. In addition, ILO is currently preparing a project of technical assistance to the Inter-American Conference of Labour Ministers.

7. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

61. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and OAS cooperated on the project entitled "Mobilization of Civil Society for Sustainable Development in the Americas", which helped to produce the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation (ISP). The Strategy, which identifies principles and recommendations for improving involvement in sustainable development policies, was formally approved by OAS in December 1999 and has been a collaborative effort among several international development organizations, including UNESCO, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through United Nations/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-GEF programmes. The Strategy process includes public participation demonstration projects, evaluations of legal frameworks, regional studies to identify and strengthen the exchange of information between Governments and civil society and workshops on public participation in specific technical issues relating to environmental management. OAS has developed a US$ 9.5 million ISP Implementation Support Programme with project development costs of US$ 700,000, and is currently negotiating the level and type of support that USAID and UNEP-GEF will provide.

62. A study entitled "Educational Reform and Sustainable Development in the Americas" was done on the present reform situation in the Americas, in particular since the Bolivia Summit that adopted a policy framework and gave recommendations for education on the Continent. The study is part of a global analysis that was presented to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session, held in New York in April 2000.

63. An article on educational reform and sustainable development in the Americas, by a senior specialist in Education at OAS, was published in the March 2000 issue of the UNESCO publication *Prospects*. In addition, OAS training courses in statistics and the corresponding fellowships offered by OAS to foreign specialists are described in the thirty-first edition of UNESCO's guide, *Study Abroad*.

64. Within the framework of its assistance to the Central American countries affected by hurricane Mitch on 30 October 1998, namely, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, UNESCO proposed the installation of several solar villages to provide electricity to rural and remote human settlements in those countries. The first solar village, "José Cecilio del Valle", partially funded by UNESCO, was installed in Honduras in the first part of 1999. OAS has offered to provide additional funds for a second solar village in Honduras.

65. In the area of hydrology and water resources, the following meetings were held or planned: Dialogue Agua III (Panama, March 1999) and preparation of Dialogue IV (Brazil, second half of 2000); Water Information Summit (WIS): WIS II (Fort Lauderdale, United States of America, 1999) and preparation for WIS III (United States, second half of 2000). UNESCO International Hydrological Programme is a member of the Board of the Inter-American Water Resources Network and UNESCO-OAS implemented the World Water Vision 2025 for the Americas.

66. The OAS and UNESCO participated in several of each other's meetings on relevant issues during the reporting period.

8. International Civil Aviation Organization

67. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) cooperates with OAS through exchange of documentation and invitations to relevant meetings. OAS is regularly invited to sessions of the ICAO Assembly and ICAO participates in relevant meetings convened by the OAS Inter-American Telecommunication Commission. In March 2000, ICAO participated in the fifteenth meeting of the Permanent Consultative Committee III (Radiocommunications) of the Commission, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

9. World Bank

68. Throughout 1999 and early 2000, the World Bank and OAS continued to consult closely at the senior managerial operational levels, and to collaborate on a range of regional and country-specific issues. Policy consultations included a number of discussions between the Secretary-General of OAS and the Bank's newly-appointed Regional Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean. Among the various regional initiatives in which the two institutions are working together, often in concert with other regional partners, June 2000 saw the formal launching of the new Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence.

69. An especially significant venue for OAS-World Bank collaboration has continued to be the Summit of the Americas process. The World Bank provides technical support to the Summit implementation process in a number of key sectors. For example, the Bank plays a leading role, in conjunction with the Inter-American Development Bank, in meeting the request made by the hemispheric ministers of finance for support in reviewing and strengthening payments and securities clearance and settlement systems. Bank staff have also been working closely with other interested parties on the follow-up to the Summit commitments on property registration, and recently made a presentation on this work to the Summit Implementation Review Group. In addition, the Bank provided assistance to an OAS-led workshop on judicial reform in the region. Collaborative efforts within the framework of the Summit are projected to intensify further during preparations for the third Summit, to be held in Quebec in 2001.

10. International Maritime Organization

70. Cooperation with OAS has recently been enhanced, owing to several developments on maritime/port issues during 1999. IMO attended the inaugural meeting of the OAS Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) in Guatemala City in October 1999. At that meeting, a presentation was made on IMO ship/port interface work — both at the regulatory level and in terms of technical cooperation — highlighting areas of possible collaboration between the two organizations. As a result, and pursuant to the IMO-OAS agreement of cooperation signed on 18 October 1976, CIP adopted a resolution CIDI/CIP/Res 10. I-99 related to further strengthening of such cooperation.

71. Based on that resolution, IMO prepared a project proposal in cooperation with CIP to address port safety and port security issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. The European Commission recently approved some co-funding for the project, which will also be supported by the IMO Technical Cooperation Fund, and further support is being explored with other

development partners. The project will cover the following areas during 2000-2001:

(a) Development of regional guidelines containing practical advice on measures that can be introduced to ensure and improve port safety and port security;

(b) Delivery of the draft IMO model course on safe loading/unloading of cargo transport units, developed by its Ship/Port Interface Working Group;

(c) Delivery of the finalized IMO model course on the prevention and control of illicit drug trafficking on board ships.

72. During 1999, IMO began execution of a project in Latin America and the Caribbean aimed at the effective implementation of the International Convention on the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic 1965. The project involves the preparation of diagnostic studies on the status of implementation of the Convention in the beneficiary countries, followed by the organization of three seminars to provide training on issues related to the Convention, and to address common objectives on the adoption and improved implementation of maritime facilitation measures throughout the region.

73. As this is also a subject of importance for CIP, all member States of that Committee have been invited to attend the IMO seminars, which will be delivered on a subregional basis (the Caribbean, Central America and South America) during 2000. The OAS secretariat is also expected to participate and to collaborate with IMO in any follow-up work.

11. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

74. During the first half of 2000, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) began discussions with the OAS Office of Science and Technology on possible areas of cooperation. The OAS expressed particular interest in the UNIDO Technology Foresight Initiative for Latin America, a programme aimed at establishing an open community network for creating and promoting knowledge-sharing and dissemination of technology foresight expertise, in real time, among institutions and countries of the region. The programme will bring together actors from various sectors of industrial development: government, public institutions, regional bodies and private associations. The programme was launched in early December 1999 in Trieste, Italy with the participation of over 130 senior representatives from the public sector, the private sector and academia. They supported the proposed UNIDO/International Centre for Science and Technology Plan of Action.

75. The interest of OAS in participating in this programme reflects the earlier contribution of the OAS Office of Science and Technology in establishing Science and Technology Councils in most of the Latin American countries in the early 1990s. In addition, OAS discussed possible cooperation with UNIDO on programmes related to microenterprises and small and medium enterprises, in areas such as policy formulation, technology services.